

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE  
THE SPECIFIC NAME "PUNCTATA" AS THE NAME FOR THE  
HOTTENTOT TEAL (CLASS AVES)**

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to preserve the specific name *punctata* as the specific name for the Hottentot Teal. This species is invariably known by the name *Anas punctata* Burchell, 1822 (*Trav. S. Afr.* 1 : 283) but, as has now been discovered, that name applies not to this species but to the Stiff-tailed Duck which in turn is invariably known by the name *Erismatura maccoa* Eyton, 1838 (*Mon. Anatidae* : 169). The most serious confusion would result if under the normal operation of the *Règles* it were necessary to transfer the name *punctata* Burchell to the Stiff-tailed Duck and to find some other name for the Hottentot Teal. The circumstances of this case are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. Two of the present applicants (W.D.L.R. & A.J.C.) and Mr. J. Hull of the Oxford University Museum have for some time been preparing a full list of the Burchell collections in the Museum. A complete list of the names given by Burchell in his *Travels in the Interior of South Africa*, 1822, has been prepared and, as Burchell's ornithological collections are known to be in Oxford (Sherborn, 1940 ; Poulton, 1904a, 1907) an attempt has been made to identify all the Burchell material in the collection and, in particular, all his type material. This has led to the discovery that the only specimen of *Erismatura maccoa* Eyton (O.U.M. Ref. No. B/1920) in the collection has, tied to its leg, a paper label with the following legend : " B31. *Anas punctata*. B Burch. Travels in South Africa 1 : 283 ". There is also a small label attached to the leg of this specimen with " 31 " on it. There is no specimen of the Hottentot Teal in the collection. Through the courtesy of the Hope Professor of Zoology, Ride

and Cain have had access to a considerable number of Burchell's manuscripts and are satisfied that the label quoted above on the specimen of the Stiff-tailed Duck is in Burchell's handwriting.

3. One of us (W.D.L.R.) has personally unwrapped several specimens of Burchell's which had remained sealed and unopened up to the time that the present investigation was started. This has shown that it was Burchell's practice to affix a small number tag (in the present case, "31") to each specimen and then to wrap that specimen in coarse wrapping paper which was generally sealed with wax. This wrapper was then inscribed with the nature of the contents and the specimen number (in the present case, "B31. *Anas punctata*. B"). The large label inscribed "*Anas punctata*. B" which is tied to the leg of the specimen of the Stiff-tailed Duck is of the same paper as these wrappers and there is a small piece of sealing wax of the same colour adhering to its surface. That the wrapper relates to the specimen to which it is at present attached is indicated by the identical Burchell number on both specimen tag and wrapper. Unfortunately, as previously noted by Poulton (1904b) the notebooks relating to these numbers cannot be traced.

4. In his discussion of this species (: 283) Burchell wrote: "Here . . . I met with . . . the Crimson-billed Duck . . . and a small brown duck . . . which, according to Speelman, is called by the colonists *Smi-eendje* (Widgeon). This last is, probably, not a common bird, as I never saw it but this once". The "brown duck" referred to above was described by Burchell as follows in a footnote on the same page:—

"*Anas punctata*. B. Entirely brown, excepting the chin, the cheeks, and a stripe from the eye, which are white. The eyes, bill, legs, and toes, black: the back sprinkled with minute yellow dots; the under part of the body indistinctly marked with darker spots: the tail short and brown, with the tips of the feathers acute."

5. The particulars given in paragraphs 2 and 3 above establish beyond question that the specimen of the Stiff-tailed Duck bearing the Burchell number 31 and the Oxford University Museum number B/1920 is at least one of the syntypes of Burchell's *Anas punctata*. Further, in view of the fact that there do not appear to be any Burchell specimens of birds outside the Oxford Museum, it is likely that this was the only specimen obtained by Burchell. It is possible therefore that the specimen referred to above, which agrees closely with Burchell's description of his *Anas punctata*, is the only specimen which he obtained and accordingly that it is actually the holotype specimen of that species not by description but by monotypy.

6. For the reasons explained in the opening paragraph of the present application we are of the opinion that means must be found for preventing the confusion which would follow the transfer of the specific name *punctata* Burchell from the Hottentot Teal to the Stiff-tailed Duck. We have considered therefore the question of how this can be avoided. In view of the

investigations described above, it would clearly not be possible to ask the Commission to use its Plenary Powers to direct that the name *punctata* Burchell shall apply to the Hottentot Teal, for this would run directly counter to Burchell's description and specimen. Moreover, there is now no evidence that Burchell ever took the Hottentot Teal during his travels. The first step therefore must be for the Commission to suppress the name *punctata* Burchell, 1822, for nomenclatorial purposes, thus clearing the way for the validation under its Plenary Powers of the name *punctata* as applied to the Hottentot Teal by some author subsequent to Burchell.

7. We have accordingly examined the literature for the purpose of selecting the most suitable early reference to the Hottentot Teal under the name *punctata*. This search has not been altogether easy, since for the most part the authors concerned gave no description or indication clearly attaching the name *punctata* as used by them to the Hottentot Teal, while the reference given by them to *punctata* Burchell has the effect of attaching the name as used by those authors to the Stiff-tailed Duck and not to the Hottentot Teal. Gray (G.R.), (1845) (*Gen. Birds*. 3 : [616], no. 21) for example appears to have considered that the name *punctata* Burchell applied to the Hottentot Teal, for later in the same volume (: 627) he listed the Stiff-tailed Duck under the name *Erismatura maccoa*. It must be noted, however, that Gray does not appear to have had very clear ideas about the identity of these birds, for on the same page as that on which he listed *Anas punctata* he listed also as a separate species what he called "Q[uerquedula] hottentotta [sic] A. Smith, Eyton's Anat. p. 129. Ill. Zool. S. Afr. Birds", a name which also applies to the Hottentot Teal. Even if it were quite clear that Gray intended to refer to the Hottentot Teal when he used the name *punctata*, his use of that name would not provide a valid basis for the application of the name *punctata* to the above species, for Gray gave no description and the only indication which he provided was a reference to Burchell, 1822, which automatically attaches Gray's usage of this name to the Stiff-tailed Duck.

8. The next author who has to be considered is Newton who in a paper published in 1871 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1871 : 649 footnote) discussed as follows the question of the name for the Hottentot Teal, in which he was interested from the point of view of the name for an Australian duck : " Unless it can be shown that Cuvier's name [*punctata*] was published before Burchell's (and this is extremely unlikely), *punctata* must of course be kept for the South-African bird, with which (as Mr. Gray has suggested to me) Sir Andrew Smith's subsequently designated *Querquedula hottentotta* [sic] (*Zool. S. Afr. Aves*, pl. 105) seems to be identical . . . ". This passage shows that Newton was of the opinion that *punctata* Burchell and *hottentotta* [sic] Smith probably applied to the same species, namely the Hottentot Teal, but the conditional manner in which he expressed this opinion makes his paper unsuitable for selection as the place as from which the name *punctata* shall rank as the name for the above species.

9. We come now to the paper by Selater (P.L.) entitled "List of . . . Species of Anatidae . . ." published in 1880 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1880 : 496-536). In this paper (: 522) Selater applied the name *Querquedula punctata* to the Hottentot Teal, unequivocally citing "*Q. hottentotta* [sic] Smith, Ill. S. Afr. Zool. Aves t 105" as a synonym of *punctata* which he naturally attributed to Burchell. Selater's usage of the name *punctata* is eminently suitable for selection as that from which the name *punctata* should rank as the name for the Hottentot Teal, for its acceptance as such would provide a figure (Smith's plate 105) as that of the holotype of the nominal species *Querquedula punctata* Selater, 1880, which would then represent the Hottentot Teal, the name *punctata* Selater, 1880, having thus become a validly published name for this species. As the next step, we therefore recommend that, acting under its Plenary Powers, the Commission should (1) direct that the binomen *Querquedula punctata* Selater, 1880, be treated as being a scientific name (binominal combination) then published for the first time, (2) validate the above name so published, and (3) direct that the specific name *punctata* Selater, 1880, as published in the combination *Querquedula punctata* and validated as recommended in (2) above, be applied to the species figured by Smith (A.) in [1845] as *Querquedula hottentotta* on the plate cited by Selater, namely plate 105 in the Aves Section of the work entitled *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*, the specimen so figured to be the holotype of *Querquedula punctata* Selater, 1880. We further recommend (a) that the name *punctata* Selater, 1880, validated for the Hottentot Teal in the manner recommended above should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* and (b) that at the same time the name *maccoa* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Erismatura maccoa*, the oldest available name for the Stiff-tailed Duck, be placed on the same *Official List*.

10. The action recommended in the preceding paragraph will secure that the name *punctata* Selater, 1880, is a name validly given to the Hottentot Teal, but, unless supplemented in certain directions, it will not itself suffice to ensure that the above name is the oldest available name for that species. First, it will be necessary for the Commission to suppress certain names which are subjectively interpreted as applying to the Hottentot Teal and which were published before 1880, since, if not so suppressed the names in question would be senior subjective synonyms of *punctata* Selater. Second, it will be necessary for the Commission to suppress two names, each consisting of the word *punctata* and each published in combination with the generic name *Anas*, which apply to species of duck other than the Hottentot Teal and which, if not suppressed by the Commission, would invalidate the name *punctata* Selater, of which each would become a senior primary homonym. These names are at present invalid as junior primary homonyms of *punctata* Burchell, 1822, as published in the combination *Anas punctata*, and need now to be taken into account only because it is an essential part of the present proposal that the above name should be suppressed for the purposes not only of the Law of Priority but also of the Law of Homonymy. Third, it will be necessary for the Commission

to suppress certain usages in the period 1822—1880 of the name *punctata* in combination with the generic names *Anas*, *Mareca* and *Nettion* which in their turn would become available as names when, as is now proposed, all new names consisting of the word "punctata" published in the foregoing genera in the above period were suppressed by the Commission, unless these usages also were similarly suppressed. These and certain other subsidiary problems are discussed in the following paragraphs.

11. Four names were published for the Hottentot Teal between 1822, the year in which it has hitherto always, though incorrectly been supposed that this species was named *Anas punctata* by Burchell and 1880, the year in which that name was first clearly applied to that species by Sclater, whose usage it is now desired to validate. One of these is itself invalid as a junior homonym of another name and is discussed separately below. The three other names are all available names and are thus senior subjective synonyms of *punctata* Sclater, 1880. These names which must therefore now be suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority, though not for those of the Law of Homonymy are the following :—

(a) *Querquedula hottentota* Eyton, 1838, *Mon. Anatidae* : 129

(b) *Anas pileata* Lichtenstein (M.H.C.), 1842, *Verz. Samml. Säugeth. Vög. Kaffern.* : 20, nos. 244, 245

(c) *Querquedula madagascariensis* Grandidier, 1867, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) 19 : 87, 255

12. A word of explanation regarding the history and orthography of the name *hottentota* is required. This name was first published as *Querquedula hottentota* Smith (A.), 1837 (*Cat. S. Afr. Mus.* : 37). As so published, this was a *nomen nudum* which appeared in a list of birds belonging to the South African Museum at that time on exhibition in London. The next publication of this name was in 1838 when it was published as *Querquedula hottentota* by Eyton (*Mon. Anatidae* : 129). Eyton provided a description of this species and the name *hottentota* ranks for priority from his book. In [1845] (*Ill. Zool. S. Afr.*, Aves : pl. 105) Smith figured this species under the name *Querquedula hottentota*, attributing this name to himself but without stating that it was new. In the period 1844–1849 there appeared the third volume of Gray's *Genera of Birds*, in which, on a sheet dated 1845, Gray attributed the name to Smith and misspelt it as *hottentotta*, a misspelling which was copied by many later authors including Sherborn (*Index Anim.*, Pars secund. : 3048), one of the very few mistakes made by that learned author. These invalid names will need to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*. So also will the name *maccoa* Smith, 1837 (*Cat. S. Afr. Mus.* : 37), as published in the combination *Oxyura maccoa*, which would have been the oldest available name for the Stiff-tailed Duck, if it had not been published as a *nomen nudum*.



13. The fourth of the names given to the Hottentot Teal in the period 1822—1880 was *Anas assimilis* Hartlaub, 1877 (*Vög. Madagasc.* : 365). This name is invalid as a junior homonym of *Anas assimilis* Forster, 1844 (*Descr. Anim.* : 46). The name *assimilis* Forster, though an available name, is not currently in use, being considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Anas capensis* Gmelin (J.F.) [1789] (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(2) : 527), the South African Cape Wigeon. There is also another senior homonym of *Anas assimilis* Hartlaub, 1877, namely *Anas assimilis* Schlegel, 1866 (*Mus. Pays-Bas* 6 (Anseres) : 59), a name which is currently regarded as applying to the same species as the name *Querquedula bernieri* Hartlaub, 1860 (*J. Orn.*, Lpz 8 : 173). The objectively invalid names *assimilis* Schlegel, 1866, and *assimilis* Hartlaub, 1877, should now be placed upon the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*, while the names *capensis* Gmelin, [1789], and *bernieri* Hartlaub, 1860, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

14. The first name consisting of the word *punctata* applied to a species of duck prior to 1880 which it is necessary to consider is *Anas punctata* Lesson, 1831 (*Traité d'Orn.* : 634). This name was derived from a manuscript label of Cuvier's on a male specimen in the Paris Museum and is the oldest name for the Australian duck named *Mareca castanea* by Eyton in 1838 (*Mon. Anatidae* : 119, pl. 22) and would become the valid name for that species on the suppression of *Anas punctata* Burchell, 1822, under the Plenary Powers, unless it in turn were suppressed by the Commission under those Powers. Moreover, if permitted to retain the status of availability, the name *punctata* Lesson, 1831, would be a senior homonym of, and would thus invalidate, the name *punctata* Sclater, 1880, the name which it is desired should become the oldest available name for the Hottentot Teal. In these circumstances it will be necessary for the Commission to suppress the name *punctata* Lesson, 1831, for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy. So suppressed, the name *punctata* Lesson should be placed on the *Official Index* and the name *castanea* Eyton, 1838 on the *Official List*.

15. The second name to be considered is *Anas punctata* Reichenbach, [1845] (*Syn. Arum* (Natatores) : pl. 85, figs. 915, 916). This name (like *Anas punctata* Lesson, 1831) is at present a junior homonym of *Anas punctata* Burchell, 1822. If the latter name were now to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers and if (as proposed in paragraph 14 above) the name *punctata* Lesson, 1831, were similarly to be so suppressed for all purposes, the name *punctata* Reichenbach, 1845, would become an available name but it would not come into use, for it is considered that it applies to the same species as *Anas erythrorhyncha* Gmelin (J.F.), [1789] (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(2) : 517). While from the point of view of the Law of Priority the name *punctata* is innocuous, it is essential that it should be suppressed under the Plenary Powers since it is a senior homonym of, and would invalidate, the name *punctata* Sclater, 1880, which it is desired should become the oldest available name for the Hottentot Teal. Accordingly, as part of the arrangements proposed in the present application it will be necessary

for the name *punctata* Reichenbach, [1845], to be suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy. When so suppressed, this name will need to be placed on the *Official Index*, the name *erythrorhyncha* Gmelin, [1789], being at the same time placed on the *Official List*.

16. The third species in which the name *punctata* appears in synonymy noted by Salvadori (1895, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.* 27 : 254) is *Anas (Mareca) gibberifrons* Müller (S.), 1842 (*Verh. nat. Ges. Ned. overz. besitt., Land- en Volkenk.* : 159), but these all appear to be later uses (or misuses) of the name *punctata* as published by earlier authors, none of them being new names from the standpoint of the authors by whom they were published. The first of these uses by Gray (G.R.) who in 1859 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1859 : 166) in a list of species entered what he called "*Anas punctata* var.", for which he gave no description, merely citing "*Anas punctata*, Gould" without a bibliographical reference and stating that the species concerned had been obtained in New Caledonia. The Gould reference is presumably to Gould, 1845 (*Birds of Australia* 7 : pl. 11) but Gould did not publish the name *punctata* as a new name of his own but took the name from Cuvier MS., i.e. from Lesson, 1831. This presumption is confirmed by the fact that Gould cited for his *punctata* a reference to *castanea* Eyton, the valid name for the Australian species called *punctata* by Lesson. In 1865 (*Handb. Birds Australia* 2 : 365, 366) Gould again used the name *Anas punctata*, applying it in such a way as to include not only his own *punctata* of 1845 [i.e. *castanea* Eyton] but also the species now known as *gibberifrons* Müller. Finally, in [1866] (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1865 : 861) Slater (P.L.) used the manuscript name *A. punctata* Cuvier, to denote a specimen of the "Chestnut-Breasted Duck" (?=*Mareca castanea* Eyton, 1838) in a list of additions to the Zoological Society's Menagerie. In doing this, Slater merely followed Lesson (1831) and Gould (1845). The name *punctata* so used by Slater was not a new name. From the point of view of the species now known as *gibberifrons* none of the above usages are of importance. From the point of view of the proposal that the Commission should use its Plenary Powers to make *punctata* Slater, 1880, the oldest and therefore valid name for the Hottentot Teal, these usages are of significance since if, as is now proposed, the names *punctata* Burchell, 1822 (paragraph 10), *punctata* Lesson, 1831 (paragraph 14) and *punctata* Reichenbach, [1845] (paragraph 15) are to be suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Homonymy as well as for those of the Law of Priority some of the usages of the name *Anas punctata* for this species prior to 1880 (e.g. usages by Gould, [1886], Newton, 1871) would invalidate *punctata* Slater, 1880, under the Law of Homonymy. It will be necessary therefore for the Commission when dealing with the present case not only to suppress all new names consisting of the word *punctata* published in the combination *Anas punctata* before 1880 but also to include a provision invalidating all other usages of the name *punctata* in combination with the generic name *Anas* published in the same period. At the same time the name *gibberifrons* Müller (S.), 1842, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

17. The fourth species, the synonymy of which has to be examined is the species now known by the specific name *guttata* Schlegel, 1866 (*Dendrocygna guttata* Schlegel, 1866, *Mus. Pays-Bas* 6 (Anseres) : 85). The name *punctata* appears to have been applied to this on one occasion only. This was by Finsch, 1865 (*Neu-Guin.* : 183). Reference to Finsch's work shows that, as used by him, the name *Anas punctata* is an absolute *nomen nudum*, the name appearing only in a table showing the distribution of species, in which no description was given and no bibliographical references were cited. Any worker not having access to the book cited above might think from the way in which this name has been cited by later authors (e.g. by Salvadori, 1895 : 164) that this was a validly published name and therefore a name which would invalidate as a homonym the later name *Anas punctata* Scater, which it is proposed that the Commission should validate for the Hottentot Teal. In order to obviate this risk it is desirable that this name should now be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names*. At the same time the name *guttata* Schlegel, 1866, should be placed on the *Official List of valid names*. In this connection however it must be noted that there are two names which are older than *Dendrocygna guttata* Schlegel, 1866, both of which however are found on inspection of the works concerned to be no more than *nomina nuda*. The names concerned are :—(a) *Dendrocygna guttulata* Wallace, 1863, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1863 : 36 ; (b) *Dendrocygna guttulata* Scater (P.L.), 1864, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1864 : 300. For reasons similar to those explained above in connection with the name *punctata* Finsch, 1865, these two names ought now to be interred by being placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names*.

18. The fifth and last species, the synonymy of which has to be examined is the species now known by the specific name *albogularis* Hume, 1873 (*Mareca albogularis* Hume, 1873, *Stray Feathers* 1 : 303). In the synonymy given for this species by Salvadori (1895 : 257) three usages of the specific name *punctata* are given. All three of these have been examined by the present applicants. The first is to a paper by Ball published in 1872 (*J. asiat. Soc. Bengal* 41 (Part 2) : 290) in which what Ball called "*Mareca punctata*" was doubtfully attributed to Cuvier. Under this name Ball gave a reference to Gould's pl. 11 in volume 7 of the *Birds of Australia* to which Gould had applied the name *Anas punctata* but which (as explained in paragraph 16 above), actually represents the Australian duck, the oldest valid name for which is *Mareca castanea* Eyton, 1838. Whether or not Salvadori was correct in considering that in this paper Ball intended to refer to *Mareca albogularis* Hume when he used the name *Mareca punctata*, it is clear that the name *punctata* was not a new name from Ball's point of view. The minor observations which he made would not have been sufficient to constitute an "indication" for this name even if he had intended to bring it forward as a new name. In the following year however (1873, *Stray Feathers* 1 : 88) Ball again dealt with his "*Mareca punctata* Cuvier", citing a reference to his earlier paper, mentioning Tytler's manuscript name *andamanensis* (a name which is discussed in paragraph 19 below). In this paper Ball gave a detailed description of specimens from the Andaman Islands



which appears to apply to Hume's species *albogularis*. This would be amply sufficient to provide an "indication" for this name and therefore to render it an available name if all earlier uses of the specific name *punctata* as applied to species of ducks prior to 1880 were to be suppressed by the Commission in the manner recommended in the present application. In these circumstances the name *Mareca punctata* Ball, 1873, would be a senior secondary homonym of *Anas punctata* Sclater, 1880, the name which it is desired should now be made the oldest available name for the Hottentot Teal, for that species and Hume's species *albogularis* (with which *punctata* Ball, 1873, is subjectively identified) have commonly been treated as both belonging to the genus *Anas*. It will therefore be necessary as part of the plan now submitted that the specific name *punctata* Ball, 1873, as published in the combination *Mareca punctata* be rendered unavailable for nomenclatorial purposes. The third usage of the name *punctata* in combination with the generic name *Anas* cited by Salvadori under *albogularis* Hume is that by Blyth in 1875 in his "Catalogue of Mammals and Birds of Burma" (*J. asiat. Soc. Bengal* 44 (Pt. 2), Extra Number : 166). All that Blyth did in this passage was to indicate that this species did not occur in Burma but did occur in the Andaman Islands. Blyth's paper was edited by Viscount Walden (: xvii) who, though giving no description of Blyth's bird, added references to two earlier names or usages of names. The first of these was to Gould (7 : pl. 11) which, as already noted, represents *Mareca castanea* Eyton, 1838; the second was to *andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, which was a manuscript name which had originally been published as a *nomen dubium* but which, as shown in paragraph 19 below, had in 1873 been published with an ample "indication" by Hall by whom it was applied to the species now known by the specific name *albogularis* Hume. Thus, the name *Anas punctata* Blyth, 1875, is a mere list name possessing no status in zoological nomenclature.

19. Before leaving the subject of the synonymy of the species now known by the specific name *albogularis* Hume, 1873, it is necessary to take note that on three occasions prior to 1880 this species was referred to in print under the specific name *andamanensis*. The references concerned are :—(i) *Querquedula andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, *Ibis* (2) 3 : 333; (ii) *Nettion andamanensis* Gray (G.R.), 1871, *Handlist Genera Spec. Birds* 3 : 84; (iii) *Anas andamanensis* Giebel, 1872, *Thesaurus Ornith.* 1 : 334. An examination shows that the first of the above papers, the author of which was Beavan, contained under the heading *Querquedula andamanensis* the following note written and initialled by Tytler :—"From the fresh-water creek I obtained a beautiful little teal, which I sent to the Asiatic Society's Museum for identification, but have never heard of it since; it was quite a new species, brown with blue wings, and from the best of my recollection, somewhat like *Q. ipecuteri* (Vieillot) of South America. It was shot out of a flock." Meagre and inadequate as is the foregoing note written by Tytler from memory, the name *andamanensis* so published cannot be dismissed as a *nomen nudum*. This is essentially a *nomen dubium*, but by reason of its date it represents a threat to the stability of the name *albogularis* Hume, 1873, should any author claim to recognise in Tytler's note a description of that species. It should therefore

be suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not of the Law of Homonymy. The name *andamanensis* was published with a full description by Ball in 1873 (*Stray Feathers* 1 : 88) under the name *Querquedula andamanensis*. Under the proposal submitted above, the name *andamanensis* Ball, 1873, will remain invalid as a junior primary homonym of the name *andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, as published in the same combination (*Querquedula andamanensis*) for, as will have been noted, it is part of the proposal submitted that the specific name *andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, should be kept alive for the purposes of the Law of Homonymy. The name *andamanensis* Ball, 1873, should therefore now be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*. The two other usages of the name *andamanensis* referred to earlier in the present paragraph, namely those by Gray (1871) and Giebel (1872), are found on inspection to be no more than bare catalogue or list entries without descriptive matter of any kind. In view of the trouble which these names have caused in the literature, all three should now be disposed of by being placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*. Finally, it should be noted that Salvadori (1895, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.* 27 : 257), who placed this species in the genus *Nettion*, misspelled the specific name *albogularis* as *albigulare*. In view of the importance of the work in which this misspelling occurred, it is likely that a search of the later literature would show that other authors, copying from Salvadori, have also used an incorrect connective vowel when writing this name. The Erroneous Subsequent Spelling *albigulare* Salvadori, 1895, should now be stamped as such by being placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* at the same time as the name *albogularis* Hume, 1873, as published in the combination *Mareca albogularis*, is placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

20. The fact that Sclater's 1880 usage of the name *Anas punctata* is the first clearly satisfactory usage of that name for the Hottentot Teal has made it necessary to examine the synonymy of no less than five other species, all of which are reputed to have been named *punctata* by one author or another. This examination has shown that in actual fact the name *punctata* was published as a new name for a species of duck on two occasions only, namely by Lesson in 1831 for the Australian Duck named *Mareca castanea* by Eyton in 1838 (paragraph 14 above) and by Reichenbach in 1845 for the species named *Anas erythrorkhyncha* by Gmelin in 1789 (paragraph 15 above). The usages of the name *punctata* for the other three species concerned, namely for (a) *Anas* (*Mareca*) *gibberifrons* Müller (S.), 1842 (paragraph 16) ; (b) *Dendrocygna guttata* Schlegel, 1866 (paragraph 17) ; (c) *Mareca albogularis* Hume, 1873 (paragraph 18) are no more than incorrect usages of one or other of the two names cited above. In addition to providing the basis needed for formulating a soundly based proposal for the validation by the Commission under its Plenary Powers of the name *punctata* Sclater, 1880, as the name for the Hottentot Teal (in place of the name *punctata* Burchell, 1822, which hitherto has been incorrectly applied to that species), the examination of the literature summarised in paragraphs 14

to 18 above has served the valuable purpose of unravelling the status of the numerous uses in the literature up to 1880 of the name *punctata* for each of the five species to which that name has been either invalidly or incorrectly applied. Advantage of this survey has been taken also to determine the status of a considerable number of names which have been applied to one or other of the species involved in this case but which on examination of the original publications are found to be mere *nomina nuda*. Such names, especially when published in obscure works not readily accessible to specialists, constitute a serious menace to nomenclatorial stability, for specialists who do not work in one of the relatively small number of large cities possessing rich zoological libraries are quite unable to determine whether these names are available names or whether they should be rejected as possessing no status of availability, being no more than *nomina nuda*. Accordingly, in order to overcome this difficulty so far as the present group is concerned, proposals are now submitted for the final disposal of the names belonging to the foregoing class by their being placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*.

21. For the reasons set forth in the present application the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress the under-mentioned names and usages of names for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy :—

- (i) *punctata* Burchell, 1822, as published in the combination *Anas punctata* (paragraph 6) ;
- (ii) *punctata* Lesson, 1831, as published in the combination *Anas punctata* (paragraph 14) ;
- (iii) *punctata* Reichenbach, [1845], as published in the combination *Anas punctata* (paragraph 15) ;
- (iv) *punctata*, all usages of, in combination with the generic names *Anas*, *Mareca*, *Nettion* or *Querquedula* subsequent to the usage by Burchell in 1822 in combination with the first of the above generic names and prior to the usage by Sclater in 1880 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1880 : 522) in combination with the fourth of the generic names specified above (paragraphs 10, 16, 18) ;

(b) to suppress the under-mentioned names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—

- (i) *hottentota* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentota* (paragraph 11) ;

- (ii) *pileata* Lichtenstein (M.H.C.), 1842, as published in the combination *Anas pileata* (paragraph 11) ;
  - (iii) *madagascariensis* Grandidier, 1867, as published in the combination *Querquedula madagascariensis* (paragraph 11) ;
  - (iv) *andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, as published in the combination *Querquedula andamanensis* (paragraph 19) ;
- (c) to direct that the binomen *Querquedula punctata*, as published by Selater (P.L.) in 1880 in the paper specified in (a) (iv) above be treated as being a scientific name (binominal combination) then published for the first time and to validate the above name as so published ;
- (d) to direct that the specific name *punctata* Selater, 1880, as published in the combination *Querquedula punctata*, as validated under (c) above be applied to the species figured by Smith (A.) in [1845] as *Querquedula hottentota* on the plate cited by Selater, namely plate 105 in the Aves Section of the work entitled *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*, the specimen so figured to be the holotype of *Querquedula punctata* Selater (P.L.), 1880 ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *punctata* Selater (P.L.), 1880, as published in the combination *Querquedula punctata*, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(c) above and as defined under the same Powers under (1)(d) above (paragraph 9) ;
  - (b) *maccoa* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Erismatura maccoa* (paragraph 9) ;
  - (c) *bernieri* Hartlaub, 1860, as published in the combination *Querquedula bernieri* (paragraph 13) ;
  - (d) *capensis* Gmelin (J.F.), [1789], as published in the combination *Anas capensis* (paragraph 13) ;
  - (e) *castanea* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Mareca castanea* (paragraph 14) ;
  - (f) *erythrorhyncha* Gmelin (J.F.), [1789], as published in the combination *Anas erythrorhyncha* (paragraph 15) ;
  - (g) *gibberifrons* Müller (S.), 1842, as published in the combination *Anas (Mareca) gibberifrons* (paragraph 16) ;



- (h) *guttata* Schlegel, 1866, as published in the combination *Dendrocygna guttata* (paragraph 17) ;
- (i) *albogularis* Hume, 1873, as published in the combination *Mareca albogularis* (paragraph 19) ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned names and usages of names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) the four names or usages of names specified in (1)(a) above as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers ;
- (b) the four names specified in (1)(b) above as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers ;
- (c) *punctata* Finsch, 1865, as published in the combination *Anas punctata* (a *nomen nudum*) (paragraph 17) ;
- (d) *hottentota* Smith (A.), 1837, as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentota* (a *nomen nudum*) (paragraph 12) ;
- (e) *hottentota* Smith (A.), [1845], as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentota* (a junior homonym of *hottentota* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentota*) (paragraph 12) ;
- (f) *hottentotta* Gray (G.R.), [1845], as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentotta* (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for *hottentota* Eyton, 1838, as published in the combination *Querquedula hottentota*) (paragraph 12) ;
- (g) *assimilis* Schlegel, 1866, as published in the combination *Anas assimilis* (a junior homonym of *assimilis* Forster, 1844, as published in the combination *Anas assimilis*) (paragraph 13) ;
- (h) *assimilis* Hartlaub, 1877, as published in the combination *Anas assimilis* (a junior homonym of *assimilis* Forster, 1844, as published in the combination *Anas assimilis*) (paragraph 13) ;
- (i) *maccoa* Smith (A.), 1837, as published in the combination *Oxyura maccoa* (a *nomen nudum*) (paragraph 12) ;
- (j) the specific name *guttulata* as published in the combination *Dendrocygna guttulata* as a *nomen nudum* (1) by Wallace in 1863 and (2) by Selater (P.L.) in 1864 (paragraph 17) ;
- (k) *andamanensis* Ball, 1873, as published in the combination *Querquedula andamanensis* (a junior primary homonym of *andamanensis* Tytler, 1867, as published in the combination *Querquedula andamanensis*) (paragraph 19) ;

- (l) the specific name *andamanensis* as published as a *nomen nudum* (1) by Gray (G.R.) in 1871 in combination with the generic name *Nettion*, and (2) by Giebel in 1872 in combination with the generic name *Anas* (paragraph 19) ;
- (m) *albigulare* Salvadori, 1895, as published in the combination *Nettion albigulare* (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for *albogularis* Hume, 1873, as published in the combination *Mareca albogularis*) (paragraph 19).

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### SUPPORT FOR THE DOS PASSOS/BELL APPLICATION REGARDING THE SPECIMEN TO BE ACCEPTED AS THE LECTOTYPE OF "MEGATHYMUS ARYXNA" DYAR, 1905 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA)

By JOHN ADAMS COMSTOCK

(Southern California Academy of Sciences)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 889)

(For the proposal submitted, see 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11(9) : 289-294)

(Extract from letter dated 19th May 1956)

I wish to go on record as favoring the position taken by Messrs. dos Passos and Bell.

In a paper now in press, dealing with the life history of *Megathymus evansi* Freeman, I have expressed the same opinion as that voiced in the "Request for a Ruling . . ."